

33. A method for programming an electronically controlled appliance that includes a control panel, the method including the steps of:

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- A. storing in a first portion of memory a first set of information for operating the appliance in accordance with one or more first functions that correspond to operations that are selectable using the control panel;
 - B. executing the first functions by accessing the first portion of memory;
 - C. storing in a second portion of memory a second set of information for operating the appliance in accordance with one or more second functions that correspond to operations that are not selectable using the control panel; and
 - D. executing the second functions in accordance with data provided by interfacing an external electronic device with the second portion of the memory.
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REMARKS

We have carefully considered the Office Action dated January 17, 2001 in which the Examiner has rejected claims 1-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite, and also rejected claims 1-9, 11, 13-20, 22-23, and 27-29 as being anticipated by United States Patent 6,080,972 to May, claims 10, 12, 26 and 30-31 as being obvious over May, claims 17-25 as being anticipated by United States Patent 5,818,428 to Eisenbrandt et al. and claims 21 and 24 as being obvious over Eisenbrandt.

In response to the Examiner's questions regarding first and second functions and first and second information, we point out that the "first functions" referred to in the

claims are the basic functions of an appliance that correspond to the knobs and/or buttons on a conventional appliance control panel. The “first information” is information stored in the appliance control unit that enables the appliance to perform the particular first function selected by a user through, for example, activation of the knobs and/or buttons. As is known in the art, the selection data that is supplied by the user through the manipulation of the knobs or buttons can also be supplied through use of a remote control device in a conventional manner.

The user thus, in a conventional manner, uses the appliance knobs and/or buttons or the remote control device to select a particular first function and provide the parameters therefor – for example, the selection of a cooking cycle with a particular start time and cooking temperature. The appliance controller then uses the parameters to control the operation of the appliance in accordance with the selected first function, the parameters provided and the stored first information.

The “second functions” referred to in the claims are additional functions that do not correspond to the knobs and/or buttons on the appliance control panel. The “second information” is information stored in the appliance control unit that enables the appliance to perform the particular second function selected by a user through use of an external device that conveys to the appliance controller a second function selection and related parameters. One example of a second function is an eleventh pre-programmed cooking sequence, when only ten pre-programmed sequences are available through activation of the program buttons on the appliance control panel. Another example of a second function is one that allows a user to dynamically configure the cooking elements of an oven

rather than selecting the timed or temperature-controlled cycles that are available through activation of the appliance control panel knobs and buttons.

In the inventive system the appliance provides enhanced functionality without requiring a more complex control panel or user programming.

The May reference describes a system in which an appliance is operated in a conventional manner via a remote control device. The remote control device thus allows a user to supply from a remote location selection and parameter data that could otherwise be provided through the knobs and/or buttons of the appliance control panel. For example, the May system describes a remote control device that allows the user to provide to the appliance information to set the times for the various cooking cycles, hold a food item at a set temperature, and so forth from a remote location. The same information can instead be provided by pushing the appropriate mode, status or program buttons on the control panel of the appliance.

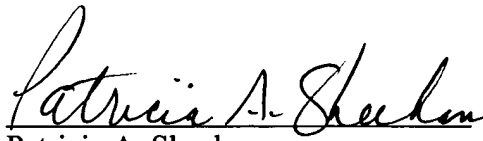
There is no teaching or suggestion in the May patent that an external device may be used to select and provide parameters for one or more second functions that can not otherwise be selected or controlled through activation of the various buttons and knobs included on the appliance control panel. Accordingly, the May patent does not show, teach or suggest the current invention because, *inter alia*, the May system does not show, teach or suggest a system in which pre-determined second functions, which are not otherwise available through actual or remote activation of buttons and so forth on the appliance, are selected or controlled using an external device, as set forth in claim 1 and the claims that depend therefrom.

The Eisenbrandt system similarly provides a control mechanism through which a user can, from a remote location, control the operations of one or more conventional appliances. The remote control mechanism is programmed at the point of sale or by the user to include tables of information that correspond to the operations of appliance. The way in which the selection information is displayed to the user by the controller may also be further customized based on user preferences.

There is no teaching or suggestion in the Eisenbrandt reference of a system in which an appliance control unit contains information for performing pre-determined first functions that correspond to conventional functions and second functions that provide enhanced operations. There is thus no showing, teaching or suggestion in the Eisenbrandt reference of a system that provides first and second information for the performance of first and second pre-determined functions, as set forth in claim 17 and the claims that depend therefrom.

In light of the above, we ask that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of claims 1-31 and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims, as amended. Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia A. Sheehan", written in black ink.

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